

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

¶132.27 SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Mr. ROHRBACHER moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 231); as amended:

Whereas the Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1996 notes that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam "denied citizens the right to change their government and significantly restricted freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association, privacy, and religion";

Whereas, since May 1997, non-violent demonstrations against corruption and abuse of power at the local level have occurred in Thai Binh Province and perhaps in Thanh Hoa, Hung Yen, Nghe An, and Bien Hoa provinces as well;

Whereas the criminal law of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is used to punish individuals who are critical of the government, and on April 14, 1997, an administrative decree was signed into law granting enhanced judicial powers to the security forces to place under house arrest or subject to reeducation camps, for up to two years, any civilians expected of "endangering national security";

Whereas the leaders of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are seeking to expand trade relations with the United States;

Whereas there is widespread discontent within the foreign business community in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with some companies pulling out entirely, others freezing new investments, and nearly all complaining about endemic corruption, intransigent bureaucracy, and a lack of clear commitment to legitimate economic reform;

Whereas, in August 1997, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that child labor exploitation is on the rise in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with tens of thousands of children under 15 years of age being exploited for labor; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to promote political and economic freedom throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners, including Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, Prof. Doan Viet Hoat, Venerable Thich Quang Do, Reverend Pham Minh Tri, and evangelist To Dinh Trung, with full restoration of their civil and human rights;

(2) requests the President to make clear to the leadership of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam—

(A) the firm commitment of the American people to political and religious and economic freedom for the people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and

(B) the United States fully expects equal protection under the law to all Vietnamese,

regardless of religious belief, political philosophy, or previous association; and

(3) urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam—

(A) to permit all political organizations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to function without intimidation or harassment; and

(B) to announce a framework and timetable for free and fair elections that will allow the Vietnamese people to peacefully choose their local and national leaders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, recognized Mr. ROHRBACHER and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*, Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said resolution, as amended, was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶132.28 US-MONGOLIA COOPERATION

Mr. BEREUTER moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 172); as amended:

Whereas in 1990, Mongolia renounced the Communist form of government and peacefully adopted a series of changes that linked economic development with democratic political reforms;

Whereas the Mongolian people have held 2 presidential elections and 3 parliamentary elections since 1990, all featuring vigorous campaigns by candidates from multiple political parties;

Whereas these elections have been free from violence, voter intimidation, and ballot irregularities, and the peaceful transfer of power from one Mongolian government to another has been successfully completed, demonstrating Mongolia's commitment to peace, stability, and the rule of law;

Whereas every Mongolian government since the end of communism has dedicated itself to promoting and protecting individual freedoms, the rule of law, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and the principle of self-government, demonstrating that Mongolia is consolidating democratic gains and moving to institutionalize democratic processes;

Whereas Mongolia stands apart as one of the few countries in Asia that is truly a fully functioning democracy; its efforts to promote economic development through free market economic policies, while also promoting human rights and individual liberties, building democratic institutions, and protecting the environment, serve as a beacon to freethinking people throughout the region and the world;

Whereas Mongolia's commitment to democracy makes it a critical element in efforts to foster and maintain regional stability throughout central Asia;

Whereas Mongolia has some of the most pristine environments in the world, which provide habitats to plant and animal species that have been lost elsewhere, and has shown a strong desire to protect its environment through the Biodiversity Conservation Ac-

tion Plan while moving forward with economic development, thus serving as a model for developing nations in the region and throughout the world;

Whereas Mongolia has established civilian control of the military—a hallmark of democratic nations—and is now working with the Mongolian parliamentary and military leaders, through the United States International Military Education and Training program, to further develop oversight of the military;

Whereas Mongolia is seeking to develop political and military relationships with neighboring countries as a means of enhancing regional stability; and

Whereas Mongolia has demonstrated a strong commitment to the same ideals that the United States stands for as a nation, and has indicated a strong desire to deepen and strengthen its relationship with the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That—

(1) the Congress—

(A) supports the efforts of the Mongolian parliament to establish "United States-Mongolian Friendship Day";

(B) strongly supports efforts by the United States and Mongolia to use the resources of their respective countries to strengthen political, economic, educational, and cultural ties between the 2 countries;

(C) confirms the support of the United States for an independent, sovereign, secure, and democratic Mongolia;

(D) applauds and encourages Mongolia's simultaneous efforts to develop its democratic and free market institutions;

(E) commends Mongolia for its foresight in environmental protection through the Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan and encourages Mongolia to obtain the goals illustrated in this plan;

(F) encourages Mongolia's efforts toward economic development that is compatible with environmental protection and supports an exchange of ideas and information between Mongolian and United States scientists;

(G) commends Mongolia's efforts to strengthen civilian control, through parliamentary oversight, over the military; and

(H) supports future contacts between the United States and Mongolia in such a manner as will benefit the parliamentary, judicial, and political institutions of Mongolia, particularly through the creation of an interparliamentary exchange between the Congress of the United States and the Mongolian parliament; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the President—

(A) should, both through the vote of the United States in international financial institutions and in the administration of the bilateral assistance programs of the United States, such as the Central Asian Enterprise Fund, support Mongolia in its efforts to expand economic opportunity through free market structures and policies;

(B) should assist Mongolia in its efforts to integrate itself into international economic structures, such as the World Trade Organization; and

(C) should promote efforts to increase commercial investment in Mongolia by United States businesses and should promote policies which will increase economic cooperation and development between the United States and Mongolia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, recognized Mr. BEREUTER and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*, Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

#### ¶132.29 SITUATION IN KENYA

Mr. ROYCE moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 130); as amended:

Whereas on July 7, a large and violent confrontation occurred in Kenya when police stormed Nairobi's All-Saints Cathedral and attacked those present at a prayer meeting;

Whereas prodemocracy activists throughout Kenya have demonstrated in favor of reform of Kenya's constitution and the repeal of repressive colonial laws;

Whereas the bloody suppression of the constitutional reform rallies, the disruptive behavior of some demonstrators, and the recent ethnic confrontations in Kenya's Coast Province have jeopardized both the safety and the political rights of average Kenyans;

Whereas the Government of Kenya has continued to disrupt opposition rallies and meetings even after pledging to take a more tolerant approach to them in late July;

Whereas these events led to the consideration in early September of a package of democratic reforms by members of parliament representing the government and the opposition, but not including representatives of Kenyan civil society;

Whereas it remains unclear whether long-discussed political reforms can be effectively implemented in the time remaining before anticipated elections in 1997; and

Whereas colonial laws have given Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi sweeping powers to suppress political opponents and thwart reform throughout his 19-year rule: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That the Congress—

(1) recognizes and commends those Kenyans who have demonstrated their love of peace, law, and order;

(2) condemns those who are inciting others to violence, looting, and destroying property;

(3) urges an immediate cessation to the violence in Kenya;

(4) urges the Government of Kenya to take all necessary and lawful steps to avoid more violence in the future;

(5) recognizes President Moi's response to domestic and international pressure to allow meaningful constitutional and legal electoral process reform through the current package of legislation agreed to by the ruling party and opposition party representatives;

(6) calls for the prodemocracy movement to remain unified in working toward implementing constitutional, statutory, and administrative reforms;

(7) urges rapid progress toward conducting free and fair elections; and

(8) urges the United States Government and the international community to continue to work with all parties to encourage

the Government of Kenya to ensure a lasting and committed transition to democracy, including an immediate review of the propriety of the time of the next elections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, recognized Mr. ROYCE and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

#### ¶132.30 CONDEMNING ANGOLAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE CONGO

Mr. ROYCE moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 273); as amended:

Whereas President Pascal Lissouba defeated former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso in a 1992 election in the Republic of the Congo that was determined to be free and fair;

Whereas in October 1997 troops of the Government of the Republic of Angola assisted in the capture of Pointe Noire, a city in the southern part of the Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the Government of Angola sent more than 1,000 troops into the Republic of the Congo from neighboring Cabinda, including a MiG-23 fighter and ground attack squadrons;

Whereas the Government of Angola provided military supplies and support to former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to assist his efforts to unseat the democratically-elected President Pascal Lissouba;

Whereas the Lusaka Protocol of 1994 requires that the Government of Angola inform the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) of any troop movements;

Whereas the actions by Angola are a violation of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter which forbids member states from "the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state";

Whereas the actions by Angola are a violation of Article III of the Organization of African Unity Charter which mandates "Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State";

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has imposed travel and other sanctions on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for making insufficient progress in its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol, including demobilization of UNITA soldiers, the forfeiture of weapons to the United Nations, and the extension of state administration to regions under UNITA control;

Whereas this action by the United Nations Security Council comes shortly after the Government of Angola participated in the overthrow of a democratically elected government in the Republic of the Congo; and

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has failed to condemn this action by the Government of Angola: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the military intervention by the Government of the Republic of Angola into the Republic of the Congo;

(2) calls on the Government of Angola to immediately withdraw all military troops, supplies, and other assistance from the Republic of the Congo;

(3) encourages the United States Government to condemn the military intervention by the Government of Angola into the Republic of the Congo and its violation of the Lusaka Protocol, the United Nations Charter, and the Organization of African Unity Charter;

(4) urges the United States Government to withhold any military training and assistance to Angola until it ceases all military activities in the Republic of the Congo;

(5) expresses concern that the United States Government has sought to strengthen military ties with the Government of Angola in advance of the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and the creation of a meaningful role for former members of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in the Angolan military; and

(6) urges both the Government of Angola and UNITA to continue their commitments to the Lusaka Protocol and Angolan peace process despite the imposition of sanctions on UNITA by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1127 (1997) and 1135 (1997).

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, recognized Mr. ROYCE and Mr. MENENDEZ, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

By unanimous consent, the title was amended so as to read "A resolution condemning the military intervention by the Government of the Republic of Angola into the Republic of the Congo, urging both the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to continue their commitments to the Lusaka Protocol and Angolan peace process despite the imposition of sanctions on UNITA by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1127 (1997) and 1135 (1997), and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby the rules were suspended and said resolution, as amended, was agreed to and the title was amended was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

#### ¶132.31 HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGE

Mr. LAZIO moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 329):

*Resolved*, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to